THE RESTORATION OF EAST INDIA MARINE HALL

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THE RESTORATION OF EAST INDIA MARINE HALL

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The Restoration of East India Marine Hall

ON the afternoon of 4 November 1943, East India Marine Hall of the Peabody Museum, Salem, Massachusetts, was rededicated for the exhibition of objects pertaining to maritime history. Honorable Leverett Saltonstall, Governor of Massachusetts and a Trustee of the Museum, was the principal speaker, and the following message from the President of the United States was read by Augustus Peabody Loring, Jr., President of the Museum's Trustees:

DEAR MR. LORING:

I am glad to know that the old East India Marine Hall has been restored by the Peabody Museum so that its usefulness will be continued through the years. All who cherish the sagas of the old Salem sea captains and merchants will be thankful that this glorious memorial to the Golden Age of New England shipping is to be perpetuated. The Museum will be a source of never-ending interest to all who love ships.

Very sincerely yours,

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

Letters from Senator Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr., and Congressman George J. Bates were read, and brief remarks were made by Honorable Edward A. Coffey, Mayor of Salem, Stephen Willard Phillips, President of the Essex Institute, and Lawrence Waters Jenkins, Director of the Peabody Museum. This ceremony marked the restoration of the Hall to the purposes for which it had originally been dedicated on 14 October 1825 by an earlier President of the United States, John Quincy Adams.

In the autumn of 1799 a group of thirty Salem shipmasters met to found a society so exclusive that only those who had sailed around Cape Horn or the Cape of Good Hope as masters or supercargos would be eligible for membership. As the first New England vessel had reached China only thirteen years before, this requirement made the society comparable, for its time, to a modern aviation club, for which only pilots who had successfully crossed the Atlantic or Pacific could qualify. Nevertheless by March 1801, when the Salem East India Marine Society was incorporated by act

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of the General Court of Massachusetts 'for the laudable purpose of affording relief to disabled Seamen, and to the indigent Widows and Families of deceased Members and others; and of promoting a knowledge of navigation and trade to the East Indies,' fifty-five members had been admitted.

The benevolent purposes of the Society were — and still are — accomplished by grants from the income of funds obtained from fees of admission and annual assessments. To promote 'knowledge of navigation and trade to the East Indies,' each member bound to sea was supplied by the

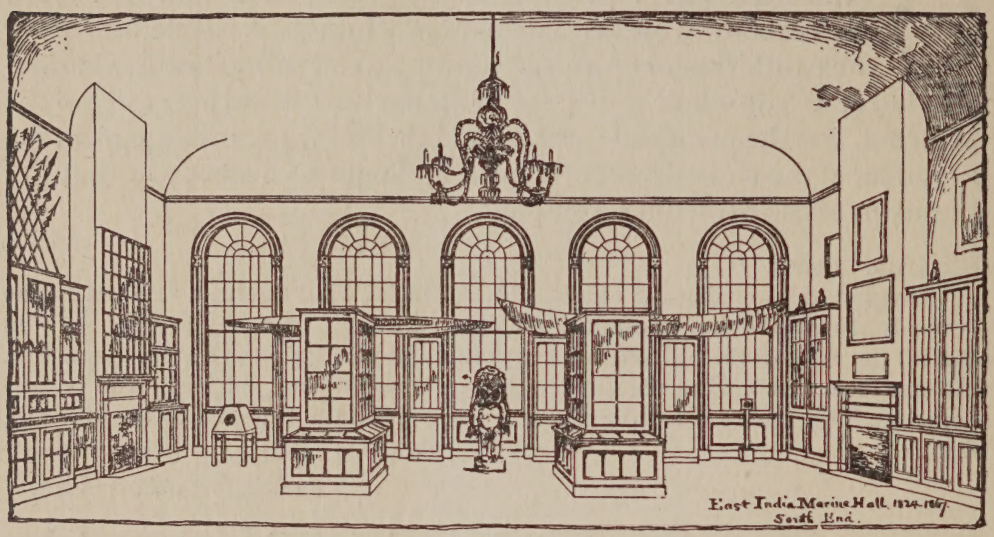


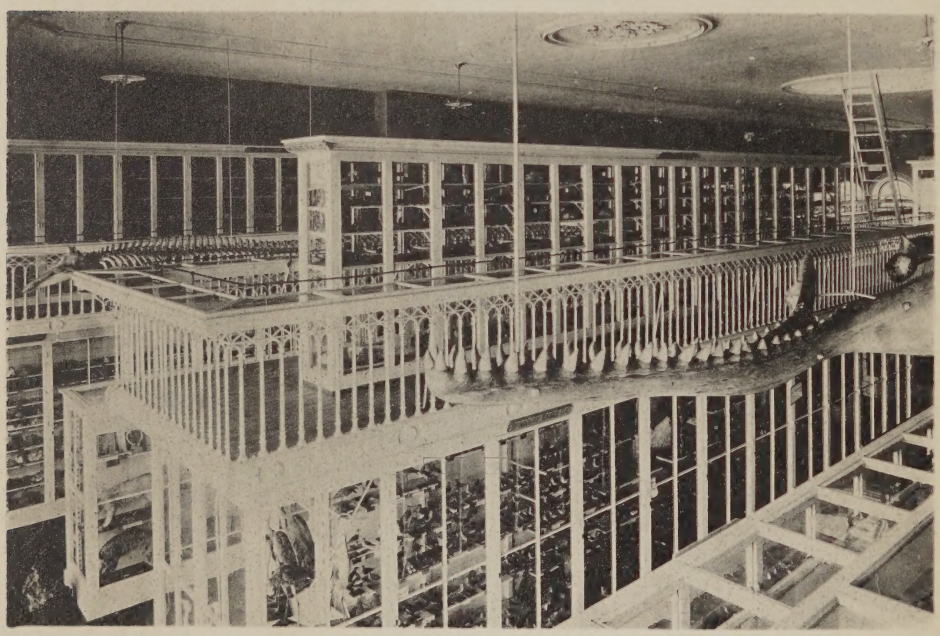
Figure 1. South end of East India Marine Hall, 1824-1867

Society with a blank journal in which he was 'to insert all things worthy of notice which occur during his voyage.' These journals subsequently were deposited with the Society, bound in volumes of ten journals each, and indexed by the Inspector of Journals, an office filled from 1804 to 1820 by Nathaniel Bowditch. Besides the usual occurrences of ships' journals, these volumes contained numerous observations of compass variation, of latitudes and longitudes, sailing directions for various remote places and coasts, and information on the manner of transacting business at East Indian ports.

A third object of the Society was 'to form a Museum of natural and artificial curiosities, particularly such as are to be found beyond the Cape of Good Hope and Cape Horn.' At the second meeting, held on 6 November 1799, a committee was appointed to list and arrange the articles in the

East India Marine Hall, looking south, November 1943
Peabody Museum, Salem, Massachusetts

AS IT WAS HOPED IT WOULD BE
an elegant concourse of ladies and gentlemen admiring the specimens



AS IT WAS
'filled with a jittery miscellany of zoological objects'

East India Marine Hall, rebuilt with galleries and cases, 1867-1942
Peabody Museum, Salem, Massachusetts

cabinet, and to note by whom they were deposited. Whether from scientific enthusiasm or the good old Yankee spirit of competition, members brought back objects from their voyages to such good purpose that in 1821 a catalogue of the Museum, containing 2269 items, was published. While some of these were 'curiosities' pure and simple,[1] many of the weapons, costumes,[2] models of native craft and objects of daily use from the Pacific Islands and the Far East were admirably chosen and are today of the highest ethnological interest.[3] Shells, coins and medals were sepa-

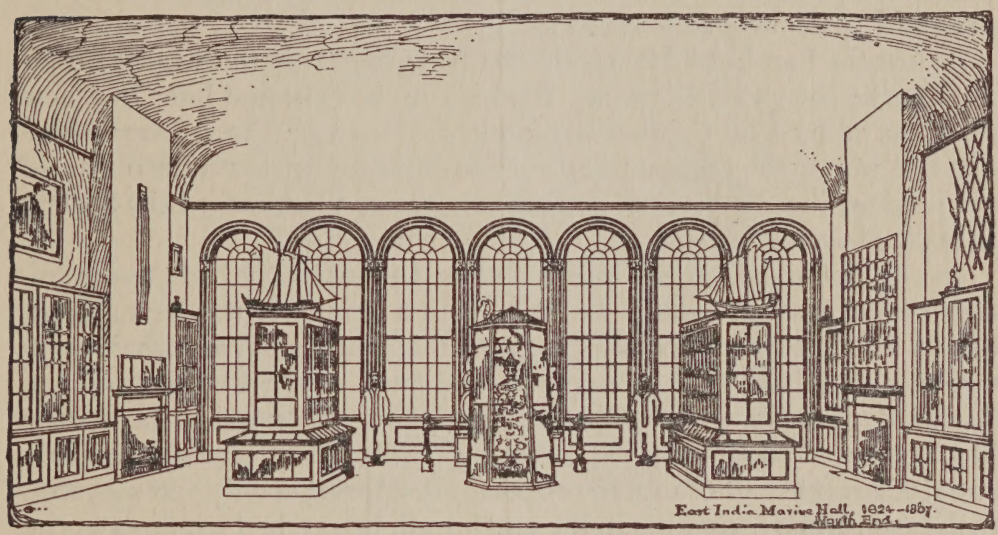


Figure 2. North end of East India Marine Hall, 1824-1867

rately catalogued.[4] In addition to these exotic 'natural and artificial curiosities,' the Museum included portraits of contemporary ships[5] and ship-

[1] As, for example, item 621, 'Model of a Dog, made of shells, by Miss Bell, of Nantucket, when only six years old.'

[2] For delicacy of expression, attention is invited to items 660-661, 'A Girdle, or Sash, being the entire dress of females at the Fegee Islands.'

[3] For examples of the Polynesian objects collected by the East India Marine Society, see the following Peabody Museum catalogues: *The Hawaiian Portion of the Polynesian Collections in the Peabody Museum of Salem, The Hervey Islands Adzes in the Peabody Museum of Salem, The Marquesas Islands Collection in the Peabody Museum of Salem, The New Zealand Maori Collection in the Peabody Museum of Salem.*

[4] Of the 2269 entries in the 1821 catalogue, items 1739 to 2014 describe the collection of shells, and items 2015 to 2265 the collection of ancient and modern coins and medals. The catalogue was prepared under the direction of Seth Bass, M.D., who was Superintendent of the Museum from 1820 to 1825.

[5] The ship portraits are briefly described in John Robinson, *The Marine Room of the Peabody Museum of Salem* (Salem: Peabody Museum, 1921). This catalogue has been out of print for some years, but it is hoped that a more detailed catalogue of the marine collection may be issued after the war.

masters,[6] and rigged models like that of the U. S. frigate *Constitution,* presented to the Society in 1813 by Isaac Hull, who was then her commanding officer.

That the social side of the Society was not neglected by members at home between voyages is attested by the portentous bills for food and drink for the frequent dinners which were held. These celebrations were often preceded by parades through the principal streets, escorted by detachments from the Salem Cadets, Major John Saunders' Company of Light Infantry or a division of the Salem Artillery, and followed by the drinking of a substantial assortment of toasts, each accompanied by appropriate music from a brass band.

At first the East India Marine Society had quarters in the Stearns Building, on the corner of Essex and Washington Streets, and later in a new building erected by Colonel Benjamin Pickman on Essex Street, some fifty feet west of the present location. The rapidly growing collections and the increase in membership[7] during twenty-five years caused the Society to make plans for a permanent hall of its own.

In 1824 construction was begun on East India Marine Hall, a substantial two story and attic brick building with a granite façade facing Essex Street. To increase the Society's revenue, the ground floor was given up to rentable shop and office space, and the names of the first tenants, the Asiatic Bank and the Oriental Insurance Office, are carved in the granite blocks over the doors leading to their premises. The second floor consisted of a single hall of superb proportions, approximately 100 x 45 feet, with seven arched windows in the north wall, five arched windows in the south wall, a cupola giving additional light in the centre, and four fireplaces each in the long blank east and west walls. This hall was to be the home of the East India Marine Society; was to house its Museum, and to be the scene of its meetings and dinners during the next forty-three years.

The Hall was built by the East India Marine Hall Corporation, a separate legal entity in which the East India Marine Society was a stockholder. Unfortunately the records of this Corporation have not survived,[8] and there is nothing in the Society's books to indicate the name of the architect[9] or any of the details of the construction.

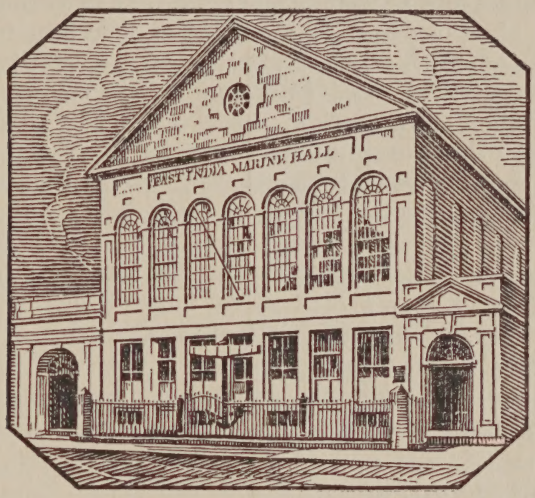
[6] See *Portraits of Shipmasters and Merchants in the Peabody Museum of Salem* (Salem: Peabody Museum, 1939).

[7] By July 1824, 230 members had been admitted.

[8] An eight-page pamphlet, *By-Laws of the East India Marine Hall Corporation* was printed at Salem by W. and S. B. Ives in 1826, but unfortunately that is all that is known of the Corporation.

[9] The Peabody Museum has several unsigned architect's projects for the Hall, which show that the original plan was for a three-story, rather than a two story and attic, building.

The Hall was completed in 1825, the collections installed, and by early autumn plans were being made for a formal dedication on 14 October. Invitations were sent to the President of the United States and numerous federal, state and local dignitaries; suitable purchases of champagne and madeira were made; and the services of fourteen members of the Boston Brigade Band and three special constables were engaged. The impressive and extended nature of the ceremonies can best be judged from the account published in the *Essex Register* for 17 October 1825.



EAST INDIA MARINE SOCIETY.

This distinguished Society celebrated their 26th Anniversary on Friday the 14th inst. by a public Procession and Dinner, on the occasion of taking possession of the Hall which they have lately erected and fitted up in a splendid manner for their accommodation. This Hall, over 100 feet in length and 40 in breadth, is as chaste and beautiful a specimen of architecture as our country can exhibit, and filled as it is by the rare and curious productions of nature and art from the four quarters of the globe, forms a cabinet unrivalled in this, and excelled perhaps by few in any country. On this occasion, the Society was honored with the company of THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, and many other distinguished guests, amongst whom were Mr. Justice STORY, of the Supreme Court of the U. S., Hon. B. W. CROWNINSHIELD, Member of Congress for this District, Hon. JOSIAH QUINCY, Mayor of Boston, Hon. Mr. HILL, of the Executive Council, Hon. T. PICKERING, President KIRKLAND, of Harvard University, and a large number of Merchants and professional gentlemen.

The Society, with its guests, moved in procession at 2 o'clock from Hamilton Hall, under the direction of Richard S. Rogers and Jona P. Saunders, Esqrs. Marshals, and escorted by a fine band of music, proceeded through some of our principal streets to their new Hall in Essex street. The occasion drew together a vast concourse of citizens as spectators, who lined the streets through which the procession moved, and who testified by repeated cheers and greetings, their happiness at beholding their beloved Chief Magistrate in the midst of a large number of his warmest and most disinterested friends. The dinner was served in a style of magnificence heretofore unequalled in this town. It was prepared under the direction of the committee of Observation, assisted by Joseph Ropes, Samuel Rea, John B. Osgood, James B. Briggs, John Andrew, Richard S. Rogers, and Jona P. Saunders, as a committee of arrangements. The religious services of the table were performed by the Rev. Dr. Kirkland and Rev. Mr. Cornelius. The Hon. Stephen White, President of the Society, presided at the table, assisted by Capts. Abijah Northey, Israel Williams, and Henry Prince, jun. of the committee of observation, as Vice Presidents.

The President of the United States appeared in fine health and spirits, and as it is known that his visit to our neighborhood was one of filial duty to his venerable parent, the Society and the town consider that the effort he made to visit us on this occasion, was one of marked attention, for which he has our cordial acknowledgements.

The following toasts were announced by John W. Treadwell, Esq. corresponding secretary of the Society:

REGULAR TOASTS:

1. The President of the United States.

[Immediately after this toast was drunk, President ADAMS rose, and, after expressing in warm and animated terms, the gratitude he felt for the repeated marks of kindness and attention he had received at the hands of the citizens of Salem, even from his earliest youth, he gave —

THE MARINERS OF ESSEX — and their tributes, in Peace and in War, to the glory of their Country.]

2. The Governor of the Commonwealth.

3. Civil and Religious Toleration — produced and supported by commercial intercourse.

4. American principles — Like the Northern Lights, their radiance shoots across the political sky — Despotism beholds it trembling 'with a fearful looking for of a judgment to come.'

5. The Merchants of the United States — May they inherit the spirit of Cosmo de Medicis, and learning and arts bear testimony to their munificence.

6. Vasco da Gama — The first bold navigator who doubled the Cape of Storms.

7. Our Navigators — They have been enlightened by distinguished men of all countries. Let us recollect the science of D'Apres, Dalrymple, Hosburgh, Milburn and Phipps, and strive to acquit ourselves of the obligation.

8. The trade to India — No commercial nation has been great without it, may the experience of ages induce us to cherish this rich source of national wealth.

9. The Fair of America, and the wealth of India — In pursuit of each a *Good Hope* is half the voyage.

These toasts were interspersed with appropriate music by the band — and the following gentlemen being called upon gave the sentiments annexed:—

By the President of the United States. The *Cape of Storms*. To the Navigators and Merchants of Salem, may it prove the *Cape of Good Hope*.

By Hon. Jos. Story — (after some appropriate remarks in which he pronounced an eloquent eulogium upon the founders of the Society.) The Memory of Benjamin Hodges, the first President of the Society — whose life exemplified every virtue, whose death was felt as a public calamity.

By Hon. B. W. Crowninshield. The Navigators of the Town of Salem — famed for Nautical skill, correct discipline, and pure patriotism.

By Hon. Mr. Hill, of the executive Council. The Salem East-India Marine Society — The enterprise of its members forms a bright example for the imitation of the citizens of the United States.

By Hon. Nathaniel Silsbee, President of the Senate. My fellow members of this Society — May their success as masters of *good ships* enable them to become owners of *better ones*.

By Hon. John G. King. That illustrious member of the Salem E. In. Marine Society, whose honorable labors have made the 'courses of the Stars' familiar to the learned, and the paths of the Ocean safe to the humblest seaman.

By Hon. Timothy Pickering. Harmony among the various professions of society important to the prosperity of all.

By Hon. Josiah Quincy, Mayor of Boston. The ship of State and her pilots — May future times say of her what the present times say of the Salem East India Marine Society, that 'She contains the best Navigators that the world produces.'

By Hon. Joseph Story. Boston! — If you ask for her jewels, look at her children — for her glory, read her annals — for her achievements, 'search but her bosom or survey her shore.'

By Hon. Mr. Quincy. The inhabitants of the Town of Salem — who at all times, but especially in times of greatest peril, have stod to those of Boston in the relation of firm friends, generous rivals, and exemplary patriots.

By Col. House, of the U. S. Army. The town of Salem — May its prosperity be commensurate with the enterprise of its citizens, and the liberality and benevolence of its institutions.

By Mr. Sturgis, President of the Boston Marine Society. Salem! — Distinguished for the intelligence and enterprise of its citizens, and for more *practical* knowledge of commerce, than any other spot on God's earth of equal population.

By Hon. Stephen White, President of the Society. The Boston Marine Society — whose worthy President is a fit representative of the energy and talent which distinguish the members of that useful institution.

By President Kirkland. Foreign Commerce — The great civilizer of nations.

By Hon. Israel Thorndike. The Town of Salem — May its inhabitants be as well rewarded for their enterprize and perseverance, as their predecessors have been.

By Hon. Benj. Pickman. Success to the Society, whose enterprize and liberality are so strikingly exemplified in this Hall.

After the President had retired, the President of the Society gave —

Our Illustrious guest, JOHN QUINCY ADAMS, President of the United States, the

second President of his family — he owes not his elevation to hereditary rank, but to hereditary talents and virtues.

By Hon. W. Crafts, of Charleston, (S. C.). Commerce. The golden bridge of the Universe, that pays toll to all mankind, and asks protection only of Heaven.

By Gen. Miller, Collector of Salem. The East India Trade. It has contributed to the promotion of Nautical skill, to the encouragement of commercial enterprise, and to the advancement of our country to the high rank which it now sustains as a commercial nation, more than any other branch of our foreign trade.

By Judge White. The memory of Hugh Peters, the early friend of Salem — who started the spirit of enterprise which has explored the Globe in the cause of Science, as well as wealth, and gathered the treasures of every clime.

By Abijah Northey Esq. 1st Vice President. Our ships of War and Indiamen — Between them both they *pepper* friends and foes.

By Israel Williams Esq. 2d Vice President. China Produce. Once considered nectar for the Gods — may it never make scandal for our Goddesses.

By Capt. Henry Prince, Jun. 3d Vice President. The Brandywine. Skill and bravery direct her course — may she be favored with a Soldier's breeze and fair sea.

By Hon. D. L. Pickman. The Mayor of Boston — The whole community does justice to his public services; those who know him, admire equally his private worth.

By Wm. Fettyplace Esq. Treasurer of the Society. The Independent Governments of South America. May they, like this distinguished Republic, be ever supported by civil and religious liberty.

By Gen. Elias H. Derby. Worthy sons of energetic sires, who distinguished themselves during the revolution, in making Britain contribute 1100 sail of her shipping to our glorious cause of liberty. You, as their descendants, have almost without intending it, founded a college for well instructed merchants, and the ablest navigators in the world.

By the Sheriff of Essex. John Adams — the venerable patriarch of New-England, and eloquent advocate of Independence.

By John W. Treadwell, Esq. Corresponding Secretary. The drain of Specie from the West to the East, and its magical effects — which enriches those who spend, in proportion to their prodigality; and those countries which it exhausts the most, it renders the most inexhaustible.

By Richard S. Rogers, Esq. The Mariner nerved and sinewed in the storm — 'he dare do all that man dare.'

By Lt. White, of U. S. Navy. The favorite quick march of our Republic — the march of the human mind.

By Joseph Ropes, Esq. The Mariners of the U. S. — Prompt and patriotic — ever ready at the call of their country, to greet a friend, or beat an enemy.

By Henry Ropes, Esq. Recording Secretary. This Society — May it, like the columns of Hercules, remain firm during the lapse of ages.

By Capt. Henry Prince. The Journals of this Society, under the inspection of our late President, like the Colossus of Rhodes, they will light the path of the Ocean to future Navigators.

By Charles Saunders, Esq. The strong limbs, hard faces, and free-born manners of our Sailors — these things are not the product of spinning-jennies.

By N. L. Rogers. Our late President Bowditch – Having *insured* the honor of this Society and the glory of his country, may he be rewarded by a large *annuity*.

By John Howard, Esq. The commerce of the U. S. which was annihilated in 1775, has by divine providence in 1825 a free access to every sea, unmolested except by Pirates – an unexampled event in the history of the world.

By Perley Putnam, Esq. The Salem East India Marine Society. Distinguished for its nautical and commercial knowledge and enterprise, indefatigable in its researches for Natural and artificial curiosities in Foreign Climes, and as a specimen of the judgement and taste of its members in the display of them, we have this day occular demonstration, in the scientific arrangement of this splendid Hall.

By Lt. Pearson, of U. S. Navy. Greece – In their struggle for freedom, may they but emulate the virtues of their own Aristides, a name more lasting than the proudest columns raised to commemorate his victories.

By James Cook, Esq. La Fayette – Hoping that ere this he may be more than *half-seas over*, and expecting if this breeze lasts, we shall soon overtake the *Brandy-wine*.

By Capt. Jesse Smith. Our modern 74's – May they be as useful in the service of their country, and as free from being water-logged, as our old 75's.

By Jona. P. Saunders, Esq. The Pioneers of the India Seas – To them we are greatly indebted for enterprize and skill – May we, as their descendants, imitate all that is valuable in their example.

The new Hall was admirably adapted for the Society's collections, as it was of sufficient size to allow them to be seen to the best advantage. Lines of bookcases on the east and west walls housed not only books but small objects, while the ample wall space above provided for the display of paintings and panels of native weapons. Life-size figures of Indian and Chinese merchants brought the East back to Salem. Something of its appearance is preserved in two sketches (Figures 1 and 2) made about 1867. The Museum grew rapidly after the opening of the Hall, as a second catalogue, prepared by Dr. Malthus A. Ward[10] and published in 1831, lists 4299 items, and a supplement printed in 1837 raises the total to 4724.

From the forties onwards the rapid decline of Salem's foreign trade was reflected in the membership of the East India Marine Society. While 110 new members had been admitted in the period from 1820 to 1830 the next three decades show only the following admissions:

1830 to 1840	35 members
1840 to 1850	17 members
1850 to 1860	12 members

As this was an inevitable situation, which would obviously grow worse with the years, the Society was glad in 1867 to be able to make an arrange-

[10] Superintendent of Museum from 1825 to 1831. Dr. Ward was followed by George Osborne, M.D. (1831-1837) and Henry Wheatland, M.D., who took over in September 1837 and continued until the merger with the Peabody Academy of Science.

ment with the Trustees of the Peabody Academy of Science[11] (established and endowed in February of that year by George Peabody of London) that would ensure the continued care and perpetuation of the Museum. By an agreement of 6 April 1867[12] the East India Marine Society sold East India Marine Hall to the Trustees of the Peabody Academy of Science, and turned over the Society's Museum and collections to the Academy's Trustees as a permanent deposit.

The Peabody Academy of Science was a typical product of the scientific enthusiasms of the sixties. Its first director was Frederick Ward Putnam, and the other members of its first staff — Edward S. Morse, Alpheus Hyatt, Alpheus S. Packard and Caleb Cooke — were all former students of Louis Agassiz, bent on recreating the wonders of Agassiz's Harvard Museum of Comparative Zoology to the best of their abilities. With the aid of local natural history specimens from the Essex Institute's collection, they undertook to establish a general zoological exhibition, showing the evolutionary sequence from the lowest forms of life to man. Though they appreciated the ethnological value of many of the objects in the East India Marine Society's collection, they had no interest in its shipping and commercial aspects, and had no enthusiasm for East India Marine Hall save as a building in which they could carry out thir own ideas of museum installation. Consequently the Hall was cleared out and radically rebuilt for its new purposes. Continuous rows of exhibition cases were built along the east and west walls and down the centre of the Hall, and on top of these were galleries containing still more cases. This reconstruction made wonderfully efficient use of the cubic content of the Hall. At a time when pride of possession ran high, and museum curators — like tobacconists then and since — wished to have all their goods on display, this seemed to be an admirable arrangement. Yet it completely destroyed the architectural quality of a remarkably fine room, and equally destroyed any character that might have survived from the older Museum. The effect *intended* is best appreciated in the somewhat idealized woodcut published in *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper* for 4 September 1869 (Plate 2), where an elegant concourse of ladies and gentlemen are moving about at their ease and admiring the marvels of science. The effect *achieved* was, unhappily, that of the photograph reproduced in the lower half of Plate 2, where solidly packed cases jostled one another to the confusion and amazement of the visitor.

In the eighties a substantial three-story addition was built to the south-

[11] The name Peabody Academy of Science was changed to Peabody Museum of Salem in 1915.
[12] *History of The Salem East India Marine Society* (Salem, 1916), pp. 13-16.

East India Marine Hall, looking north, November 1943
Peabody Museum, Salem, Massachusetts

East wall

West wall

East India Marine Hall, November 1943
Peabody Museum, Salem, Massachusetts

east of East India Marine Hall, which contained on the ground floor a well-appointed lecture hall, seating three hundred, known as Academy Hall, and above this East Hall, a large exhibition room with galleries, which was used for the display of ethnological material. Weld Hall, added in 1906 by Dr. Charles G. Weld, provided further exhibition space for the Japanese ethnological collection that had grown to vast proportions under the enthusiastic guidance of Professor Edward S. Morse.

During the seventies and eighties appreciation of the historical value of the relics of Salem's foreign trade was at its lowest point, but in 1889 John Robinson[13] began an attempt to bring together the marine objects — most of which had been relegated to the attic — as a special collection, and to solicit additions with the idea of forming a memorial of the commercial marine period of Salem's life. This collection was first arranged in the northern end of East Hall, and in January 1904 was moved to a Marine Room on the front of the ground floor of East India Marine Hall, created out of the area that had hitherto been rented to the Asiatic Bank, the Oriental Insurance Office and various subsequent tenants. In 1930 the corresponding area on the ground floor in the rear was similarly remodelled as a memorial to John Robinson, and has since been used for the exhibition of ship-models and portraits of Salem merchants and shipmasters.

During the present century, as popular interest in maritime history has become widespread, the tradition of the East India Marine Society has once again come into its own, and it has become apparent that this is the chief claim to distinction of the Peabody Museum of Salem. While there are hundreds of institutions with natural history collections that are as good or considerably better, there is no other institution in the United States with such a unique relation to the American merchant marine. It was consequently a source of regret that, while ship models and pictures, figure-heads, nautical instruments and similar objects, were crowded into the ground floor rooms of the Museum, East India Marine Hall itself — where they properly belonged — remained a mournful monument to an outmoded theory of museum installation, in which the natural history collections that it contained failed to show to any advantage. As Dr. Thomas Barbour, Director of the Museum of Comparative Zoology and a Trustee of the Peabody Museum, described it in his article 'Naturalist at Large — The Glory Hole' in the November 1942 *Atlantic Monthly:*

> The Hall for years has been filled with a jittery miscellany of zoological objects. There was a good representation of the fauna of Essex County, specimens excellent-

[13] Trustee and Curator from 1875 to 1925.

ly prepared. All else was a miscellaneous accumulation, acquired through the years from sea captains and others, of specimens which varied in quality from the utterly revolting[14] to a few really fine things.

The first step towards remedying this situation was taken in the summer of 1941, when the Trustees agreed to convert Academy Hall — which had outlived its usefulness as a lecture hall — into five exhibition rooms and a book stack. This work was completed in the spring of 1942. One of the rooms — leading out of John Robinson Hall — was given up to a permanent exhibition of paintings of Chinese ports and portraits of East Indian merchants. The others were used for temporary exhibition.[15]

Active measures for the restoration of East India Marine Hall were taken soon after Augustus Peabody Loring, Jr., was elected President of the Museum's Trustees in June 1942. The physical restoration was not a particularly complicated piece of work, as it involved chiefly the demolition of the cases and galleries set up in 1867. The great problem was what to do with the Hall's contents. Dr. Barbour eyed the new temporary exhibition rooms for some days, and finally concluded that all the Essex County birds and mammals of any consequence would fit into two of them. It was easy to eliminate pure junk, and to retire to storage certain collections that were properly study rather than exhibition material. There remained, however, a few fine but bulky objects, which had nothing to do with Essex County — notably a bull bison, an ostrich, a giant tortoise from the Galapagos Islands, and a few other similar pieces. These led Dr. Barbour to the happy idea of exhibiting a few selected animals in their relation to man, rather than as members of zoological species. The two remaining temporary exhibition rooms were consequently fitted up for this purpose, and East India Marine Hall — after seventy-five years — was clear of animals once again.

The clearing out of cases and galleries began immediately, and before autumn the fine proportions of the Hall were once again visible. Then began the work of replacing the ceiling cove, which had been demolished in 1867 to make additional head-room in the galleries; of supplying miss-

[14] Dr. Barbour's meditation on glory holes was partially inspired by one of these. 'Pride of possession is a curious attribute of mankind. This was brought sharply to my mind yesterday when it occurred to me to ask myself, "Why didn't Mrs. Chase *give* her gallstones to the Peabody Museum?" Many other people had, for there were a pint or more of miscellaneous gallstones in the Peabody Museum of Salem, curiously enough in the case with an old reindeer. But these were donated gallstones; it was only Mrs. Chase's that were on loan. The answer is, Mrs. Chase's gallstones were larger than any others in the whole place and she obviously just couldn't bear to part with them permanently.' *Atlantic Monthly*, CLXX, no. 5 (November 1942), 48.

[15] Prints and drawings by the late George C. Wales, lent by Mrs. Wales, and prints of the sailing and steam navy of the United States, from the Museum's print collection, were shown during the summer of 1942.

ing moldings, mantlepieces; of reconstructing the stairway leading up from the first floor, and generally restoring the Hall to the condition in which the East India Marine Society had known it.[16]

In the installation of objects there has been no pedantic attempt to restore everything to the precise spot that it occupied before 1867. The crystal chandeliers that Captain Benjamin Carpenter gave the Society are hanging in the same place that they occupied when John Quincy Adams first dedicated the Hall in 1825. Certain of the original bookcases are back in their accustomed places, and the figures of Chinese merchants are once more in their original surroundings. But the collection of ships' figureheads, none of which were owned by the Society, are also in the Hall, as is Robert Salmon's gigantic painting of Lord Exmouth's fleet before Algiers in the last of the Barbary Wars, and various other objects that, because of their quality, subject or scale, appear to belong there.

Because of the war, the installation is frankly provisional in many respects. It would be impossible to get satisfactory metal-frame cases for the exhibition of certain ship models that should eventually be in the Hall. Because of this, the rigged model of the ship *Friendship* is in a frankly 'duration' temporary case, and other models have been left in their former locations on the ground floor of the Museum. After the war, when the Museum staff is restored to its normal size, and materials are once more available, the installation of objects can be completed. But the Hall itself, as re-dedicated on 4 November 1943 (Plates 1, 3-4), is a striking memorial to the men who built it and 'will be a source of never-ending interest to all who love ships.'

16 This work was done by Howard G. Doane of Beverly, whose workmen — unlike most — still carry on the best traditions of their trade by bringing much of the precision of cabinet making into the operations of carpentry.

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